MANIPUR

Survey has revealed spots of chromite in Nampisha-Kwatha area of Chandel and Ukhrul districts. Work is continued.

Revision of Rates of Royalty on Minerals

524. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the representation of the 'State Government of Gujarat the Central Government had recently constituted Committee for the revision of rates or royaltyon minerals of the State and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to revise upwards the rates of royalty to Gujarat on that basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (e) The Central Government has not constituted any Committee for revision in the rates of royalty recently However, the Central Government had constituted a Study Group on 30.1.95 for carrying out detailed review of rates of royalty and dead rent applicable to major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing). The Study Group had members from some of the important mineral producing States including Gujarat. The Study Group also had consultations with the State Governments and the mining industry and considered the question of revision of rates or royally on major minerals in all its aspects within the scope of its terms of reference before submitting its report to the Government. The Study Group submitted its report in November, 1995. Investment promotion, stability of royalty regime, parity with the international rates and revenue gain to the State Governments have been the basic criteria for the revision of the royalty rates. After considering the recommendations of the Study Group, the rates of royalty on major minerals (other than coal and lignite) have already been revised vide Government Gazette Notification GSR No. 214(E) dated 11.4.97, copy of which has been laid on the Table of the House on 5.5.1997.

As per provisions of Section 9(3) of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, the royalty rates can not be enhanced more than once during any period of three years and consequently the next revision in the rates of royalty is not due as yet.

Aluminium Plants in Private and Public Sector

525. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Aluminium plants in the country both in public and private sector;

(b) the year-wise performances of those Aluminium units during last three years;

(c) the target set by the units for the production of Aluminium by 2000 A.D.; and

(d) the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) There are two public sector companies i.e. Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) and National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and there are three companies in private sector i.e. Hindustan Aluminium Company Limited (HINDALCO). Indian Aluminium Company Limited (INDAL) and Madras Aluminium Company Limited (MALCO). Their production performance in the last three years is given below:-

(Tonnes)

Name	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
NALCO	192288	203823	200162
BALCO	94423	92262	89037
HINDALCO	175398	166272	200304
INDAL	54084	37370	38823
MALCO	15401	22959	25853